

State-Defense Tie-In Urged in Senate Study

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A Senate subcommittee study urges strengthening the role of the Secretary of State in the national security field and suggests that he spend most of his time at his desk in Washington.

Chairman Jackson, Democrat of Washington, of the Subcommittee on National Policy Machinery, gave his endorsement to the study which upholds the State Department chief in the traditional role as the President's "first adviser" on all international problems.

In often colorful language, the report recommends closer liaison between the Pentagon and Foggy Bottom, the abolition of many interdepartmental committees and steps to improve the training of top State Department staffers.

It said much of the Secretary of State's effectiveness depends upon his being in Washington and recommended ways to ease the burden of travel and negotiating that took "resent Secretaries away from their home base much of the time."

Complexities Noted

The central theme of the study is that "strengthening the traditional means of executive power," specifically the office of the Secretary of State, is a better way of coping with the complexities of international affairs than resort to "a new super-cabinet official or a super-staff White House agency for national security."

The Secretary of State, the study said, "must be willing to assert his proper jurisdiction and exercise full leadership across the whole front of national security matters, as they relate to foreign policy."

Its major recommendations include:

State-Defense Relations. The necessary "full and sympathetic partnership" at all levels "will be still-born unless the two Secretaries themselves set its tone and style. They need frequent and unhurried opportunities to talk together, think together and plan together. Specifically, the two Secretaries should confer with the President on the whole political-military world picture early in the annual budgetary cycle, before over-all ceilings on spending are established.

Interdepartmental Committees. The report said bluntly, "A very high percentage of committees serve no useful purpose" and should be abolished by the Budget Bureau. To strengthen the State Department's weakening position in "the gray and bloodless ground of bureaucratic warfare," an interdepartmental committee, State should, in most cases involving foreign policy matters, provide the chairman of the committee and be given responsibility for directing execution of decisions.

State Department training. The report said State should emulate the example of the armed services and give broader training and experience to career officials who may some day be dealing with major national security problems. Lateral transfers between agencies should be encouraged; the job exchange program that has been started between State and Defense should be broadened to include the Central Intelligence Agency, Treasury, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Budget Bureau, and more

career people should be enrolled. More of them should be sent to Government advanced training schools and private universities.

Other Improvements

State Department Staff. In addition to its crops of diplomats, the State Department needs more staff members with competence in military and scientific-technical problems and more with executive training, the report said. It added that the integration of the departmental and foreign services—the so-called Wristonization of 1954—has made the department "a less congenial home for specialists" and they need greater incentive and reward. The Policy Planning Staff needs to be improved and more consultation is needed with outside experts and research organizations.

Helping the Secretary. The report said the Secretary of State needs relief from too much travel and negotiating duties. It endorsed the use of ambassadors-at-large and special representatives with unique competence in such fields as arms control and space. It also suggested convening an international protocol conference to form

permit subordinate officials to take over some of the ceremonial duties the Secretary of State and his foreign counterparts are now required to perform.